

Standard 4 – Proclaim and Celebrate Arbor Day

A proclamation announcing and promoting Arbor Day is an annual requirement. Washington State's official Arbor Day is the 2nd Wednesday of the month of April. National Arbor Day is officially celebrated the last Friday of the month of April. However, Arbor Day can be proclaimed and celebrated at any time of the year. Many communities celebrate in the fall; a great time to plant trees.

City proclamations are read at City Council meetings; often in conjunction with the presentation of the Tree City USA award. If City Council meetings are televised, you are reaching a broad audience!

Proclamations can be written in many ways; we've included a couple examples here.

Arbor Day celebrations can be a simple, brief tree planting event, or all-day, all-week, or all-month observations! You may want to recognize and honor community tree advocates at an award ceremony or invite local school children to a learning event at a local park. For children, Arbor Day may be their first introduction, to the world of trees, ecology and the environment.

Arbor Day is a golden opportunity to bring greater visibility to your program and to educate homeowners about proper tree care. Utility companies can join in to promote planting small trees beneath power lines, or being careful when digging. (If they aren't already, this is a good time to encourage your local utility to become a Tree Line USA). You may want to invite students from the local College Campus to promote the careful management of trees on their campus, (and encourage them to advocate for the Tree Campus USA program). Smokey Bear can be on hand to relay fire prevention messages, as can conservation education about soil erosion, water quality, or the need to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

Still another way to celebrate Arbor Day is to link it with a city-wide tree-related festival, or to bring a tree-related flair to the annual town festival.

In other words, the "tree planters holiday" is an opportunity to embrace your creative side while promoting your program and the benefits of trees in the community.

Here are some links to DNRs Ear to the Ground Blog, highlighting Arbor Day celebrations around our state:

[Kennewick – 100 Years of Arbor Day Celebrations](#)

[Lynnwood's Fourth Grade Foresters](#)

[Airway Heights Tree-rific Poster Contest](#)

[It's official: Renton is a 'Tree City USA'](#)

[Goldmark honors seven cities in Spokane area for healthy trees](#)

Visit [Arbor Day Foundation's web site](#) for a plethora of celebration materials.
<http://www.arborday.org/arborday/>

Both of the following books are available through UCF. Just [email a request](#) with your name and address and we will send you a copy.

"Celebrate Arbor Day Guidebook" by the Arbor Day Foundation (or [download it from the website](#))

"An Introductory Guide to Arbor Day" by the International Society of Arboriculture